means for accessing a property evaluation database using the collateral identity;

means for generating a credit approval based upon the credit report;

means for underwriting title of the identified collateral based upon the credit report;

means for generating an approval of the borrower's ability to repay the loan based upon the credit report and the stated income of the borrower;

means for generating loan documentation based upon the credit, title, and ability to repay approvals; and

means for transmitting the loan documentation to the borrower.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 9 and 13 are amended to more distinctly describe the subject matter of applicant's invention. No new matter is added by these amendments and the amendments are intended only to address for issues of form in the claims, not to alter the claim scope.

A. Objection to the Title

The Office Action objected to the title of the application as filed as non-descriptive. However, it is respectfully believed that the title is entirely descriptive of the claimed invention. Namely, systems and methods for processing secured loans (e.g., loans that are secured by collateral). While the patent owner desires to cooperate with the patent office in this regard, it would be a matter of guessing at the Office's goals to come up with a better title. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, or that any future action suggest some example language for a title amendment.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. This amendment to claims 1, 9 and 13 is believed to overcome the objection raised in the Office Action.

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B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Norris This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 9 and 13 call for, in varying language, mechanisms for requesting and obtaining a credit report where the credit report includes a credit score (e.g., a FICO score in claims 1 and 9). In contrast, Norris is concerned with computing or determining a credit score from a credit report using a neural network. Norris would have no need for a credit score obtained from a third party, such as a FICO score, because Norris computes its own score.

More significantly, however, claims 1, 9 and 13 call for accessing a property valuation database. Claims 1 and 13 further calls for generating an approval of the property valuation using the credit report and underwriting title of the identified collateral using the credit report. Handling the evaluation and underwriting of collateral is a significant feature of the secured loan processing mechanism of the present invention. After all, the collateral is the "security" that makes the loan secured. The Norris reference does not show or fairly suggest these mechanisms for handling collateral.

Norris has a brief, passing mention that acknowledges that if a loan is to be secured, the collateral needs to be identified and valued. However, Norris does not suggest this process is automated or uses a property valuation database. Nor does Norris suggest that the credit report be used to approve and underwrite the valuation. Norris does not even suggest that a property valuation needs to be approved, let alone that a credit report, which arguably has little direct information about the collateral, should be used in the process of approving the collateral valuation and underwriting title of the collateral. Accordignly, Norris can not show or suggest these limitations of claims 1, 9 and 13.

Claims 2-8, 9-12 and 14-20 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend.
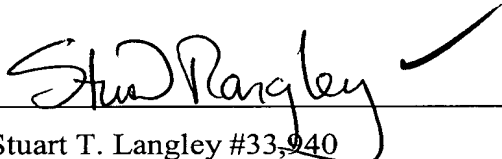
C. Conclusion

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In view of all of the above claims 1-20 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The references that were cited and not relied upon are believed to be no more pertinent that those references that were relied upon.

No fee is believed to be required by this response as determined on the accompanying transmittal letter. Should any other fee be required, please charge Deposit 50-1123. Should any additional extension of time be required please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account 50-1123. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made"**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>December 26, 2002</u>   BY:_____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A.   In the claims

1(Amended).   A method of processing a secured loan comprising:

accepting a loan application from a borrower, the loan application comprising
at least [the] a borrower's identity, collateral identity, and stated income of the
borrower;

generating a credit request based upon the borrower's identity to obtain a credit
report, the credit report including credit information and credit score information;

accessing a property valuation database using the collateral identity;

based upon the credit report, generating an approval of the property valuation
from the database;

based upon the credit report, generating a credit approval;

based upon the credit report, underwriting title of the identified collateral;

based upon the credit report and the stated income of the borrower, generating
an approval of the borrower's ability to repay the loan;

based upon the credit, collateral, and ability to repay approvals, generating
loan documentation;

transmitting the loan documentation to the borrower; and

closing the loan.

9(Amended).   A secured loan processing system comprising:

a loan processing computer system having an interface for receiving a loan
application from a borrower, the loan application comprising at least [the] a
borrower's identity, collateral identity, and stated income of the borrower;

a credit reporting database in communication with the loan processing
computer for receiving a request based upon the borrower's identity and providing a
credit report including a FICO score to the loan processing computer system;

a property evaluation database in communication with the loan processing
computer for receiving a request based upon the collateral identity and providing a
database evaluation report to the loan processing computer system;

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an underwriting matrix within the loan processing system having an association between credit report values and approval criteria, wherein the loan processing computer can approve the loan application based upon the application contents, the database evaluation, and credit report without reference to additional

15   direct data.

13(Amended). A secured loan processing system comprising comprising:

means for accepting a loan application from a borrower, the loan application comprising at least [the] a borrower's identity, collateral identity, and stated income of the borrower;

5   means for generating a credit request based upon the borrower's identity to obtain a credit report, the credit report including credit information and credit score information;

means for accessing a property evaluation database using the collateral identity;

10   means for generating a credit approval based upon the credit report;

means for underwriting title of the identified collateral based upon the credit report;

means for generating an approval of the borrower's ability to repay the loan based upon the credit report and the stated income of the borrower;

15   means for generating loan documentation based upon the credit, title, and ability to repay approvals; and

means for transmitting the loan documentation to the borrower.